

IUCN's remarks as International Organizations' Observer at the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Participants' Assembly – PA9

September 29th, 2016

Good morning to all.

On behalf on the International Organizations' Observer, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) would like to congratulate the work done within the last year by the REDD+ country participants, donors, delivering partners, and observers. We have had the chance to see progress achieved in these countries in key issues such as consultation processes, joint work with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, inclusive discussion on benefit sharing, safeguards, gender issues, assessment of land-tenure options for a better implementation of programmes, policy reform, and developing sound reference levels, amongst others. Thanks to these efforts, we have been able to see significant headway in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Readiness Fund and Carbon Fund.

International response to REDD+ has been solid. As a result of the Paris Agreement, countries from around the globe have encouraged parties to take action to implement and support result-based payments schemes for REDD+, taking particular consideration to previous decisions agreed on safeguards and non-carbon benefits. To date, several of the FCPF countries have ratified the Paris Agreement to show that they are committed, as the Paris Agreement states, to act towards an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change, not only addressing the forest and land use sector, but going further.

REDD+ also finds additional and substantial support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which this October will be discussing alternatives to operationalize result-based payments for REDD+ activities, building on the REDD+ logic model and performance measurement framework adopted at the GCF Board's eighth meeting. The Global Environmental Facility's (GEF) current Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) strategy is implemented across the three phases of REDD+ including the development and implementation of model projects for Payment for Environmental Services (PES). These institutions acknowledge that there is a great opportunity to enhance the level of cooperation and complementarity with the FCPF, as well as with other international and bilateral initiatives that support REDD+.

All these initiatives that reflect the work and purpose of FCPF members are being strongly backed by the international political context. Good opportunities from international and bilateral finance to achieve success in REDD+ planning and implementation exist. International Organizations such as IUCN will continue to take concerted actions to further amplify global efforts in developing and advancing practical and effective nature-based solutions to climate change, including actions from the forest and land use sector.

Examples of these concerted actions on REDD+ can be found in the collaborative work between IUCN, countries and partners in relation to national, subnational and at-the-landscape level REDD+ strategies in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Papua Provinces in Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, and Uganda, among others. In these countries, joint efforts have delved into stakeholder engagement, focusing on civil society, gender, and indigenous people, as well as in landscape governance that integrates multi-stakeholder processes, builds livelihood incentives within benefit-sharing approaches, and facilitates the mainstreaming of rights-based and pro-poor frameworks.

IUCN as an International Organizations' Observer has been closely following the Second Evaluation Report process. As part of the Oversight Committee, we are pleased to see that dedicated work from a representative group of constituents of the Participant's Committee (PC) made possible a construction of positive recommendations that will lead to an action plan to be discussed with the next PC, in order to improve the work of the FCPF ahead.

Looking forward, we are excited to see further progress in the REDD+ processes as the result of the great collaboration among the groups that form this partnership.

Thank you.